

**From:** Tony Safina  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/31/01 8:05pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

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## Public Comments

I have been using Microsoft products since the 1980's. I do not think Microsoft should be broken up. I do not think they should be punished for being successful. What ever happened to the American way? Would Horatio Alger today be considered a criminal for wanting to better his lot in life? Why does government in America encourage people to make an honest buck but once someone has earned a billion honest bucks or fifty billion honest bucks it is immediately assumed they are doing something dishonest.

I think a lot of the Microsoft brouhaha was started by cry babies at Netscape. They want the DOJ to think they invented the web browser. I am here to tell you Netscape did not invent the web browser. They improved the web browser just as every company before them improved the web browser. I know because I switch web browsers every time a better web browser becomes available.

In 1989 I did not use a web browser because the web had not been invented yet.

In 1990 the web was invented and people surfed the few web sites available using the text browser Lynx. It was free. The authors gave it away. I guess they wanted to be nice. Nobody sues people who want to be nice.

By late 1991 the first browser for Windows was invented. It had a graphical user interface (GUI) and it was a lot better than Lynx. This program was called Cello. It was free. The authors gave it away. I guess they wanted to be nice. Nobody sues people who want to be nice. I don't think the authors of the Lynx program tried to coerce the DOJ into suing the authors of the Cello program. I guess that is because the authors of the Cello program were not billionaires. If they had been billionaires you would have called them evil and said lets sue their sorry crass butts. I'm glad that didn't happen because change is good, especially so when a new program is a vast improvement over an earlier program. I switched to Cello the instant I saw it.

By 1992 another browser for Windows became available. It too had a graphical user interface (GUI) and it was better than Cello. This program was called Winweb. It had a cooler slicker look than Cello. I don't know that it was any better than Cello, it just looked sharper. It was free. The authors gave it away. I guess they wanted to be nice. Nobody sues people who want to be nice. I don't think the authors of the Cello program tried to coerce the DOJ into suing the authors of the Winweb program. I guess that is because the authors of the Winweb program were not billionaires. If they had been billionaires you would have called them evil and said lets sue their sorry crass butts. I'm glad that didn't happen because change is good, especially so when a new program is a vast improvement over an earlier program. I switched to Winweb the instant I saw it.

By late 1992 or early 1993 another browser for Windows became available. It too had a graphical user interface (GUI) and it was better than Winweb. This program was called Mosaic. It had a cooler slicker look than Winweb. I don't know that it was any better than Winweb, it just looked sharper; I think it could handle a wider variety of HTML tags than any web browser before it. That made better looking web pages possible, pages you could surf faster too. It was free. The authors gave it away. I guess they wanted to be nice. Nobody sues people who want to be nice. I don't think the authors of the Winweb program tried to coerce the DOJ into suing the authors of the Mosaic program. I guess that is because the authors of the Mosaic program were not billionaires. If they had been billionaires you would have called them evil and said lets sue their sorry crass butts. I'm glad that didn't happen because change is good, especially so when a new program is a vast improvement over an earlier program. I switched to Mosaic the instant I saw it.

By mid 1993 or late 1993 another browser for Windows became available. It too had a graphical user interface (GUI) and it was better than Mosaic. This program was called Netscape. It had a cooler slicker look than Mosaic. I don't know that it was any better than Mosaic, it just looked sharper; I think it could also handle a wider variety of HTML tags than any web browser before it. That made better looking web pages possible, pages you could surf faster too. It was free (at least initially, probably right up til Netscape's IPO it was free). The authors gave it away. I guess they wanted to be nice. Nobody sues people who want to be nice.

I don't think the authors of the Mosaic program tried to coerce the DOJ into suing the authors of the Netscape program. I guess that is because the authors of the Netscape program were not billionaires, at least not initially. If they had been billionaires you would have called them evil and said lets sue their sorry crass butts. I'm glad that didn't happen because change is good, especially so when a new program is a vast improvement over an earlier program. I switched to Netscape the instant I saw it.

By mid 1994 or late 1994 another browser for Windows became available. It too had a graphical user interface (GUI) and it was not better than Netscape. This program was called Microsoft's Internet Explorer. It did not have a cooler slicker look than Netscape. I didn't like it at all and did not switch. I continued to use Netscape. As I hope to make clear I do not switch web browsers the instant a new one becomes available, I only switch when a better one becomes available. In 1994 Netscape had the best web browser available, bar none. They program was so awful they couldn't give it away, at least not to a seasoned web surfer like myself. They couldn't have paid me to use it. Well, perhaps if we were talking billions, okay millions, well I guess for just a hundred or so I would have given it a try.

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By 1967 a new improved browser for Windows became available. It too had a graphical user interface (GUI) and it was better than Netscape. This program was called Microsoft's Internet Explorer IV. It had a much slicker look than Netscape and it improved the functionality of Windows as well. It was definitely better than Netscape. It didn't just look sharper, it was more functional because it worked better in Windows. Maybe it could also handle a wider variety of HTML tags. This time the authors of the previous best browser which was Netscape did try to coerce the DOJ into suing the authors of the Internet Explorer IV program. I guess that is because the authors of the Microsoft program were billionaires and they now had a great product. Netscape didn't care to sue when Microsoft had an inferior web browser which they had with Internet Explorer I, II, and III, but as soon as they had improved their product to a point where they were now better than Netscape Holy Hevell broke out. They called Microsoft evil and they whined to their Uncle Sam and said lets sue their sorry crass butts. I'm sorry that happened because change is good, especially so when a new program is a vast improvement over an earlier program. I switched to Microsoft Internet Explorer IV the instant I saw it. I switched just as I had always switched when a better web browser became available. It's being a Microsoft product meant nothing to me. What mattered was it was a better browser and I always switch when a better browser becomes available.

In Microsoft's case it was a big deal that it was free. The authors gave it away. I guess they wanted to be nice. Nobody sues people who want to be nice unless it's Microsoft that is being nice. Then suddenly it is no longer a question of nice. Now they call it criminal if your only fault is having a few billion dollars more than the next guy (or gal).

This is why I decided to submit my comments today. Microsoft has done nothing but excel at what they do best, making and marketing good software products. So what if they want to give it away for free. Being a 1980's software junkie I have never paid for a web browser to this very day. I used Netscape for four years and never paid a penny for it. If you run beta versions and use ftp to download them you can use Netscape for four years and never spend a penny. Same for the Microsoft browser. I fail to see what the big deal is all about.

I think you should tell Netscape to go scratch and then drop the case against Microsoft. It should not be a punishable offense to excel at your job and that is the only thing Microsoft has done wrong. They are guilty of being too good, and that in my opinion is not a punishable offense.

Sincerely,

Anthony X. Safina, Jr.  
425 S Hubbards Ln, Apt 431  
Louisville, KY 40207-4097  
502-899-3723  
[tony@iglou.com](mailto:tony@iglou.com)

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